

THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

COUNCILMEMBER TODD GLORIA

THIRD DISTRICT

August 5, 2009

The Honorable Susan A. Davis Member of Congress 4305 University Avenue, Suite 515 San Diego, CA 92105

Dear Congresswoman Davis:

I am writing in response to the recent announcement that the U.S. Postal Service may close several post offices in the San Diego region. I am strongly opposed to the potential closure of the North Park Post Office located at 3791 Grim Avenue.

It is well understood that the Postal Service is facing significant financial challenges and must make hard choices in order to balance its budget and continue to provide service to the public. Governments like the City of San Diego have grappled with this same problem and will continue to do so for the foreseeable future. However, in spite of our City's extreme financial challenges, we have managed to avoid closing libraries, recreation centers and parks and instead found other cuts and efficiencies to minimize the impact on our citizens. The Postal Service should strive to make similar reductions that are less impactful to the public.

As you know, North Park has enjoyed a renaissance in recent years that has seen renewed investment in the neighborhood and a booming arts and culture district. From the art galleries on Ray Street to the new restaurants on 30th Street, we have made great progress in this densely populated, urban neighborhood. That is why it would be most unfortunate for the Postal Service to close its North Park station. While small businesses and first-time homebuyers are investing in this community, it would send a terrible message for the Postal Service to walk away from North Park.

Furthermore, any North Park resident could tell you that the post office is extremely well used. It is rare to visit the station without a long line of customers waiting to be served. Looking forward, as additional redevelopment comes to North Park, it is important that the growing population in this community be served by a functioning post office.

Finally, if the Postal Service is seeking ways to improve operations at the North Park Post Office, I would recommend they follow through on the long promised improvements to the existing station that were meant to mitigate the removal of carrier operations several years ago. Fulfilling this commitment to North Park may result in an even more productive and profitable retail location for the Postal Service.



I appreciate your attention to this matter and your advocacy for retaining the Postal Service's presence in North Park. As always, if I can be of any service to you or your staff, please do not hesitate to contact me at any time.

Sincerely,

ODD GLORIA

Councilmember, District Three